

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-01 EB-07 /085 W

----- 074539

R 221247Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0388

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 0183

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9448

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: PLO PARTICIPATION IN EC-ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: BONN 18110

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE LEUSSE SAW ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD NOV 20 TO DISCUSS ARAB-EC GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOV 25 IN PARIS. FRENCH EMBOFF TOLD US OUTLOOK FOR CONVENING OF PARIS TALKS NOW DIM. PREVIOUSLY FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD MADE PITCH TO RIAD THAT OBSERVER STATUS FOR PLO OUT OF THE QUESTION, TO WHICH RIAD HAD REPLIED CAGILY THAT ARAB LEAGUE NOT RPT NOT PRESSING FOR PARTICIPATION OF PLO PER SE, BUT OF "PALESTINE".

2. IN NOVEMBER 20 MEETING DE LEUSSE, ACCORDING TO HIS EMBOFF, POINTED OUT TO RIAD ADVISABILITY OF ARABS REVISING THEIR STAND AND ASKED "IF SCHEDULED MEETING NOT HELD IN PARIS, DID RIAD THEN PROPOSE IT SHOULD OCCUR IN DUBLIN". RIAD REPLIED HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO A MEETING IN BRITAIN (SIC). (COMMENT: WE CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSUME DE LEUSSE WAS IMPLYING THAT IRELAND AS NEXT EC CHAIR-

MAN, MAY BE LESS EASY TO DEAL WITH THAN FRANCE. POINT WAS APPARENTLY LOST ON RIAD.)

3. FRENCH EMBOFF SAID HIS EMBASSY VERY PESSIMISTIC. ARABS APPEAR OBDDURATE ON ISSUE OF PLO (OR PALESTINIAN) OBSERVER STATUS. FRENCH EMBOFF EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO ARAB LEAGUE ABD AL-RAZZAQ 'UMAYR HAS BEEN CHIEF STUMBLING BLOCK IN PATH OF ARAB MODERATES. HE SAYS 'UMAYR TOLD HIM HE HAD ARGUED PLO'S CASE BEFORE NON-SUYPATHETIC ARAB LEAGUE MEETING AND HAD CARRIED THE DAY. 'UMAYR REMARKED THAT SUPPORTING PLO IS RAISON D'ETRE OF HIS PRESENCE IN CAIRO AND HE WILL BE MEMBER OF ARAB LEAGUE DEL TO PARIS TALKS.

4. LIKELIHOOD OF POSTPONEMENT OF PARIS MEETING IS STRENGTHENED BY OBVIOUS PRESS LEAK FROM RAID'S OFFICE. GUMHURIYYA ON NOV 21 REPORTED THAT "STRONG TRENDS" IN EC TO POSTPONE DIALOGUE ARE DUE, IN PART, TO LACK OF DECISION REGARDING ARAB LEAGUE DEMAND THAT PLO PARTICIPATE.
EILTS

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